Economic sanction for Orissa

1661. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa is facing economic sanctions from the Centre on account of non-submission of Utility Certificates, as reported in the New Indian Express dated 1st January, 2003;

(b) the details of various relief funds for which Utility Certificates are awaited;

(c) whether the delay in release of the funds is one of the factors for non-submission of utility Certificates by the State in time; and

(d) if so, leniency proposed to be extended to the State in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund amounting to Rs. 90.52 crore for the year 2002-03 has been released to the Government of Orissa. In addition, an amount of Rs. 16.41 crore for charges of air lifting during floods in 2001 and Rs. 5.29 crore as subsidy to the drought affected farmers have been released from the National Calamity Contingency Fund during the current year.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Naxalite affected States

1662. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the action taken for special socio-economic plans for development of naxalite affected States to fight naxalite menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRYOF PLANNING (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana has been formulated for dealing with the specific problems of backward areas, some of which have also been affected by naxalism. This scheme has three components, namely, (i) the Backward Districts Initiative; (ii) the Special Plan for Bihar; and (iii) the Special Plan for the KBK districts of Orissa.

Under the Backward Districts Component of this scheme, 25 districts have been selected on a pilot basis of which eleven districts have been